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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT  
NWC Task Force review

COUNTRY Germany/Russian Zone

DATE: 1/10

SUBJECT Forced Resignation of CDU Leader

DIST. 12 June 1947

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PAGES 1

SUPPLEMENT

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1. Under pressure from SMA Halle, Prof. Fascher was forced to resign his position as leader of the CDU delegation in the Saxony-Anhalt diet and as 2nd Chairman of the CDU in the province. The SMA based its action on the fact that Fascher had been a contributing member (förderndes Mitglied) of the SS. [redacted] when Fascher assumed the position of 2nd Chairman in April 1946, he reported his SS membership to the SMA in writing and orally before witnesses. It is reported that SMA officials assured Fascher at that time that this fact would not interfere with his functions as 2nd Chairman in any way. As late as February 1947, Fascher was able to continue his political activity without any objections from the SMA.

2. [redacted] the real reasons for Fascher's dismissal were:

- a. He was too successful as a speaker, won great prestige among the people, and therefore was feared by the SED, which urged his removal.
- b. Fascher's success and his large following threatened the position of Dr. Leo Herwegen as 1st Chairman of the CDU, Saxony-Anhalt. The SMA wishes Herwegen to remain in office as 1st Chairman because he is completely obedient to Russian wishes.

Comment: [redacted]

[redacted] all contributing members of the SS in Saxony-Anhalt had to leave their positions by 1 May 1947.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States. Next Review Date: 2008

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